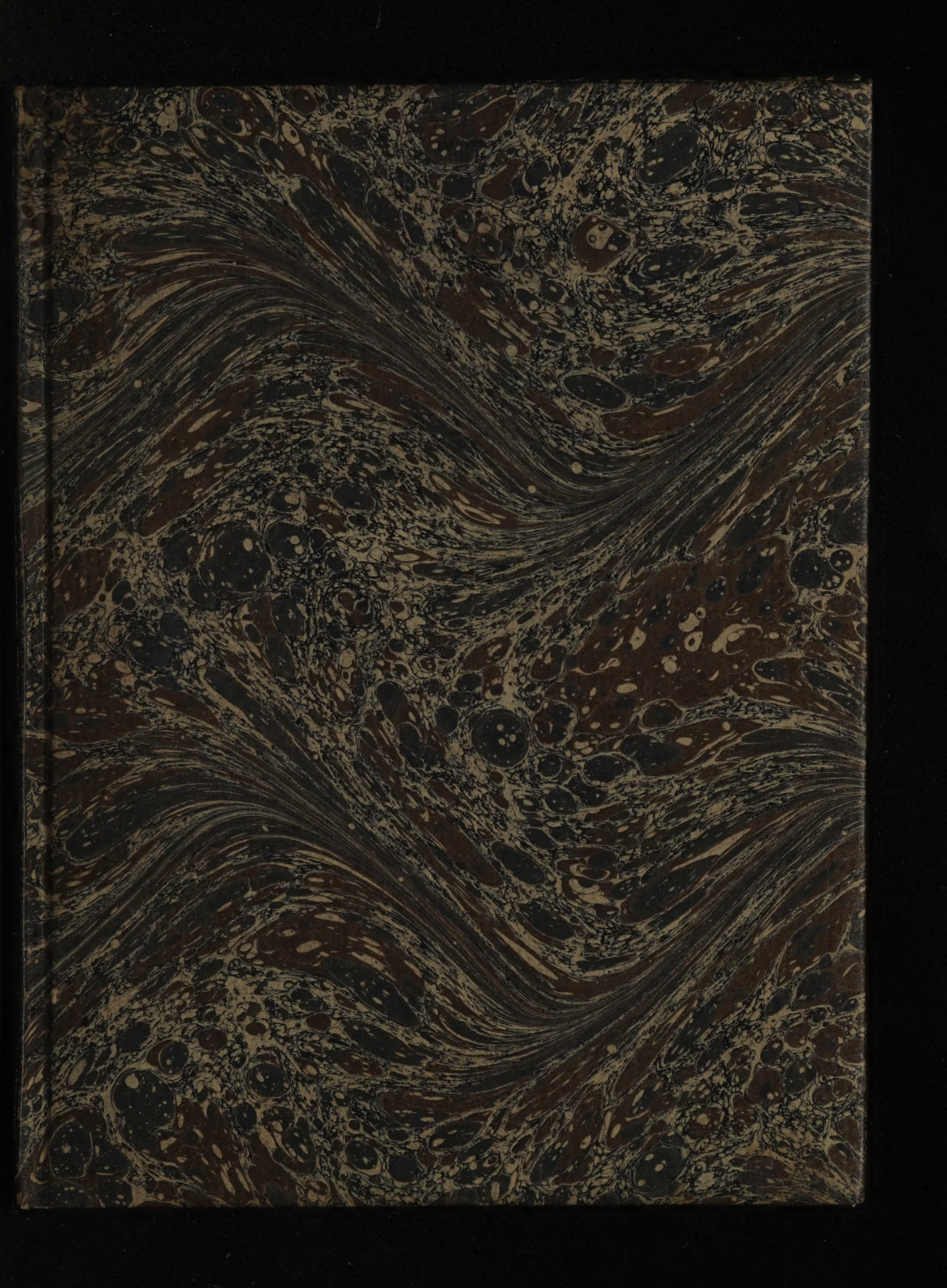


SALTMARSH 1648

45839/A

161 E. Saltmarsh, Chap. 89328 Dec. 29. 1647

WONDERFUL PREDICTIONS DECLARED

In a MESSAGE, as from the LORD,

To his Excellency

SR. THOMAS FAIRFAX

and the Councell of His Army.

By JOHN SALTMARSH, Preacher of the Gospell.

His severall speeches, to the Generall, the Councell of Warre, the Lieutenant Generall, Sir Henry Mildmay, Commissary Generall Ireton, Comptroller Deane, Collonell Rich; Col. Baxter, Mr. Peters, Mr. Clark, Mr. Allen, and others, *and the manner of his Death.*

December 29. 1647.

THis Narrative concerning Mr. Saltmarsh hath been sent to the Army; and there perused, corrected, and made perfect, to be printed and published for the Kingdomes satisfaction.

Imprimatur, Gilbert Mabbot.

Printed at *London* by *Robert Ibbitson*, in Smithfield, neer the Queenes-head Tavern, 1647.

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

The Printer to the Reader.

HAving Papers come to my hand to be Printed, concerning these wonderfull passages about Mr. *Saltmarsh*; and advising with the Licenser concerning the same; It was thought fit that the Papers should be first communicated to the Army, before they were Printed: And accordingly were sent to an eminent person at the Head-quarters, who (after perusall and corrections) returned them inclosed in a Letter, as followeth,

SIR,

I *Have (at last) procured the perusall of your Relation concerning Mr.* Saltmarsh, *and sent it you corrected, together with the inclosed* Preamble. *And I think the Relation may be fit (for matter of truth) for publique view; and being the very plain* Narrative *of the businesse, it may be for much satisfaction to the Kingdome therein.*

Windsor 27 Decemb. 1647.

A Preamble to the Reader.

IT is decent to speake honourably of the dead, yet not to be partiall. Whilst Mr. *Saltmarsh* was in the Army, he walked unblameable, kept himself to his Text, in labouring to beat down sin: and exalt Christ. He medled not with the present times; else at *Northamton* and other places hee had not found such esteeme: Hee still preached the bonds of love and peace, praying that that might bee the cord to unite Christians in amitie. He medled not in the Pulpit with Presbytery or Independency. He soly laboured to draw the soule from sin to Christ. Thus he lived amongst Souldiers in time of health, and how his departure was neere his death, you will perceive by what insueth, as to so much of it which is said to bee done at the Head-quarter; most of it may claime beleefe, and the rest probably is true. The circumstance of passages oftentimes addes light to darke actions. Hee appeared at the Head-quaters as one risen from the grave, his eyes almost fixt in his head, or rather as if he had come out of a Trance with feare and trembling to expresse his dreame. This latter may admit a probable conjecture for without doubt hee had trouble upon his spirit, till hee vented what hee apprehended hee had in commission, he did not come with bitter revileings and reproaches, but rather with wholesome admonitions to flye that danger which as he apprehended was hanging over the Army, have we not

more cause to suspect our selves of failings then him of Melancholly in what hee said: And may not this bee a good *Memento* to better things, though hee perhaps mistake in the matter hee delivered, yet however let not the words of a dying man passe unregarded, for it is the heart and not the mouth of such a man that speaketh: his carriage was as if he were of another world, often expressing he should see us no more, and his heart was eased when he delivered his Message, and finishing his course so immediately after, it is remarkable.

Wonderfull Predictions, declared in a Message, as from the Lord, to His Excellency Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, and the *Counsell of his Army*, by Mr. John Saltmarsh, *Preacher of the Gospel.*

Mr. *John Saltmarsh* (a very holy and reverend Divine, of great learning and parts) one of the Chaplines to the Army; being at his house neere *Kilford*, in the County of *Essex*, told his wife Saterday *December* 4. 1647. that hee had beene in a Trance, seene a Vision, and received a command from God, to go presently to the Army, to make knowne to them, what the Lord had revealed to him, which would be the last work that he had to do for them, and taking his leave of his wife, he hasted to *London* that night.

He declared to Sir *H. M.* a worthy Knight (a Member of the House of Commons) his deare friend (and divers others) that he was sent by the Lord with a Message to the Army, to make known some things unto them, which God had revealed unto him, he spake many glorious things concerning God and the Saints.

That night he lay in *London*, but restlesse to finish the businesse hee went about.

The next morning (it being the Lords day), he found it some difficulty to procure an Horse, which put him into a resolution to walke on foote to *Windsor*, rather then stay till *Munday*, but after dinner he was furnished, and mounted about three a clocke in the afternoone, and although ignorant of the way, yet (to avoid procrastinating) he ridde himself alone, with a resolution of speede to the Head-quarters, where he intended the Officers a salute the next morning, before they set in Councell.

But the darke clouds soone surprised him, and (having no guide) he by inquiry found that he had digressed a little from the roade, but was comforted in his confidence that God was with him.

About

About eleven a clocke (that night) he fell into a Towne, about seven miles on this side *Winsor*, where he (finding the people up at an Inne) alighted, to baite himselfe and Horse.

Whilest hee staied there, he spoke (as it is said) of many wonderfull things, which the Lord had revealed to him. But the man and woman of the house (at first) gave no credit to what he said.

But Mr. *Saltmarsh* proceeded in a continued discourse (as if he had been preaching in a Pulpit) declaring unto them many things from God; *That the great and dreadfull day of the Lord is neere, When all men shall be judged by Jesus Christ, And then shall the Wayes, and actions of all men appeare, Beleevers stand on a glorious Gospell, spirituall bottome, supported by their Saviour: And Infidels, clapping about the stones and Pillers of the World, and fleshly phancy, be throwne downe to hell for ever. The Lord hath great things (which he intends) to doe shortly. God will burne up, and consume the earthly matter of his Saints; to translate them out of worldly darkenesse into his heavenly light, through Jesus Christ; and then will God draw up all the sparkles of glory in one confluence to himselfe, and cause every thing to returne to its first originall end.*

By that time he had (a little) inlarged himselfe upon these things, the people of the house began to be serious and lay them to their consciences (amazed at the things they heard,) were smitten in their hearts, seemed very penitent. And perswading some further doctrinall points from him, occasioned his longer stay, then was before intended.

But (whilest it was yet darke,) early on *Munday* December 6. in the morning Mr. *Saltmarsh* departed from his Inne, intending towards *Winsor*, but (by mistake of his way) fell into the Forrest, where having view of an house, he approached it: and called the good man (then up) who upon his desire gave him directions of his way; and Mr. *Saltmarsh* gave him instructions in the way to heaven, and told him many things, concerning God, *and his purpose to destroy the wicked, and draw the saints to himself, declaring (also) the vanity of corrupt hearts, the impurity of called saints, and the like.*

The man being much taken herewith, accompanied him in his way through the Forrest, conversing with him till he came neere *Windsor*, and then returned.

About nine in the morning Mr. *Saltmarsh* came to the Head-quarters, and saw divers of his acquaintance.

He met with Mr. A. (one of the Adjutators) who saluting him, he said, *Mr. A. depart from these Tents, lest you perish with them, for the Lord hath revealed to me, that he is very angry with this Army, because they have forsaken Him.*

Captain ---(an Officer of the Army asked him how he did. To whom he said, *that he had nothing (from God) to say to him, for he had alwaies been a socker of himself, under spetious prefences.*

Seeing of C.D. (another Officer) he saluted him (with good morrow) He said, *he could not own him, for he was for destruction:* who seeing his countenance and carriage, and hearing his words (for he had strange expressions, both to him, and others) was startled.

Mr. *Saltmarsh* then went to the Generall Councell, where some of the Officers were met in expectation of the Generall and the rest, to sit in Councell, And he spake before them, (both then, and also afterwards) much to this purpose. *That he was come thither to reveale to them, what he had received from God. That though the Lord had done much for them and by them, yet he had of late left them, and was not in their councels, because they had forsaken him. That God would not prosper their consultations, but destroy them by divisions amongst themselves. That he had formerly come to them like a Lamb, but that God had now raised in him the spirit of a Lion, because they had sought to destroy the people of God. That the controversie now before them, calls for the tendereſt judgement, because it concerns their faithfull ones, those imprisoned of their own members, having alwayes stood by them through the greatest difficulties. That he would advise all the faithfull to depart from them, lest they be destroyed with them.* And many more such like expressions.

Some Officers asked him how hee came to know these things; whom hee answered, That *God (who had heretofore inabled him to tell them what they knew came since to passe) had revealed these things to him.* And he told some of the Officers, *that what he spake he was sure, that they knew in their Consciences it was true.*

He told them that *he wished their own arguments might find accesse to their spirits, that the same sounding of bowels might be heard in them to their brethren that they once wished to hear in others, that would have inslaved them, that they would in the flowings of an heavenly spirit, with a fountaine of tears, let the world see that men are not infallible, but may mistake their brethren for enemies.*

Some said that Mr. *Saltmarsh* stared like one distracted, And one told him that he had been sick, and was not yet well recovered: To whom he answered, *That he had* (indeed) *been sick not long since: But that now he was* (he thanked God) *very well in health, and sensible what he spake: And said, it was the last time that ever he should speak to them.*

Afterwards, he went to the Generall, (but did not move his hat,) saying, *That he had not command from God to honour him now at all: That he had honoured him so much, that he offended in doting upon his person. That God had revealed unto him, that he was highly displeased with his committing of Saints,* and

ninist-

and would not now prosper him, nor could he honour him.

When he had parted with his Excellency he went to L. G. whom he met in the Hall, who asked him how he did, Mr. *Saltmarsh* put not off his hat to him neither: But told him that the *Lord was very angry with him, for causing those godly men to be imprisoned, sleighted, and abused, for those Engagements which he had formerly owned, and the persons such as he knew faithfull in the Cause of God: That the Armies falling off from their former principles, it would be their ruine, and destruction: and would raise such fractions among themselves, as would undo them.* And much other discourse to that purpose.

L. G. told him, that some things were not so well as he could wish: but that he wondred at those passages that fell from him. But Mr. *Saltmarsh* proceeded on, declaring to him, as he had done to the Generall Counceil of the Army. And at last L. G. took a paper out of his pocket, (which he said was sent to him from Mr. S.) which he read: Some of the matter being not much different from what was then said.

Another Officer (then present) spake of something that had lately fallen from an other Member of the Army relating to that purpose.

Hereupon Mr. *Saltmarsh* replyed (saying) *Looke ye here now, out of the mouthes of two or three Witnesses, the truth of God is confirmed and I am glad* saith he to L. G. *that there is some tenderness of heart in you*: And (after some further discourse) they parted.

Then Mr. *Saltmarsh* went to *C.* I. and spake to that effect to him, which hee had done to the rest, and told him *that God had left him and would not prosper his councell.*

He met with *C. R.* and told him the message that *he was come to declare to the Army from God.*

To Mr. *P.* he said, *That he had many good things in him, but he was (of late) overcome by others, Who have misled him: but that there is yet a tenderness in his spirit.* And bad him take heed that his heart be not hardened.

To Mr. *C.* (who was to receive a summe of monies for him) he declared *that he would not receive it.* And being demanded how he could be without it, he said, *God would provide, but to take a penny of it to himselfe he durst not:* And appointed Mr. *C.* (upon the receipt of the monies) *to distribute it to poore prisoners in* London, *to the souldiers secured in* Windsor, *about the late disorder, and to other distressed Christians.*

On *Tuesday* morning December 7. Mr. *Saltmarsh* went (againe) to *L. G.* telling him that he had one thing yet to deliver to him; which God required of him (which was this) *That he would (immediately) take effectuall course for the inlargement of the members of the Army, that were committed for not complying with the Generall Councell: And that he do not*

prosecute

prosecute against those who have beene so faithfull. (And some other expressions to that purpose).

Mr. *Salmarsh* further declared, that he was sorry to see such obstinacy. And that although some tenderneſſe was upon his spirit (the day before) yet now he saw that his heart was hardned. But wished him to be mindfull of what God required of him.

That morning Mr. *Salmarsh* declared to C.B. & others, the same things again, which he had done the day before, at the Generall Councell.

C. B. asked him, whether he would advise all the honest faithfull members to leave the Army, and lay down Armes, and quite leave off the Military practice; To whom he answered, *No*; For, saith he, *God hath yet a great work to be done: In which he will make use of Members of this Army, to do great things for the glory of his Name.*

After that he had taken his leave of the Officers, telling them, *That he had then done his errand, and must leave them, never to see the Army more*: he came that night to *London*.

On Wednesday *Decemb.* 8. he acquainted divers of his Friends (about the City, what he had done, and took his leave of them) saying to some that his work was *now* done, his Message delivered; And desired them to be carefull of his wife.

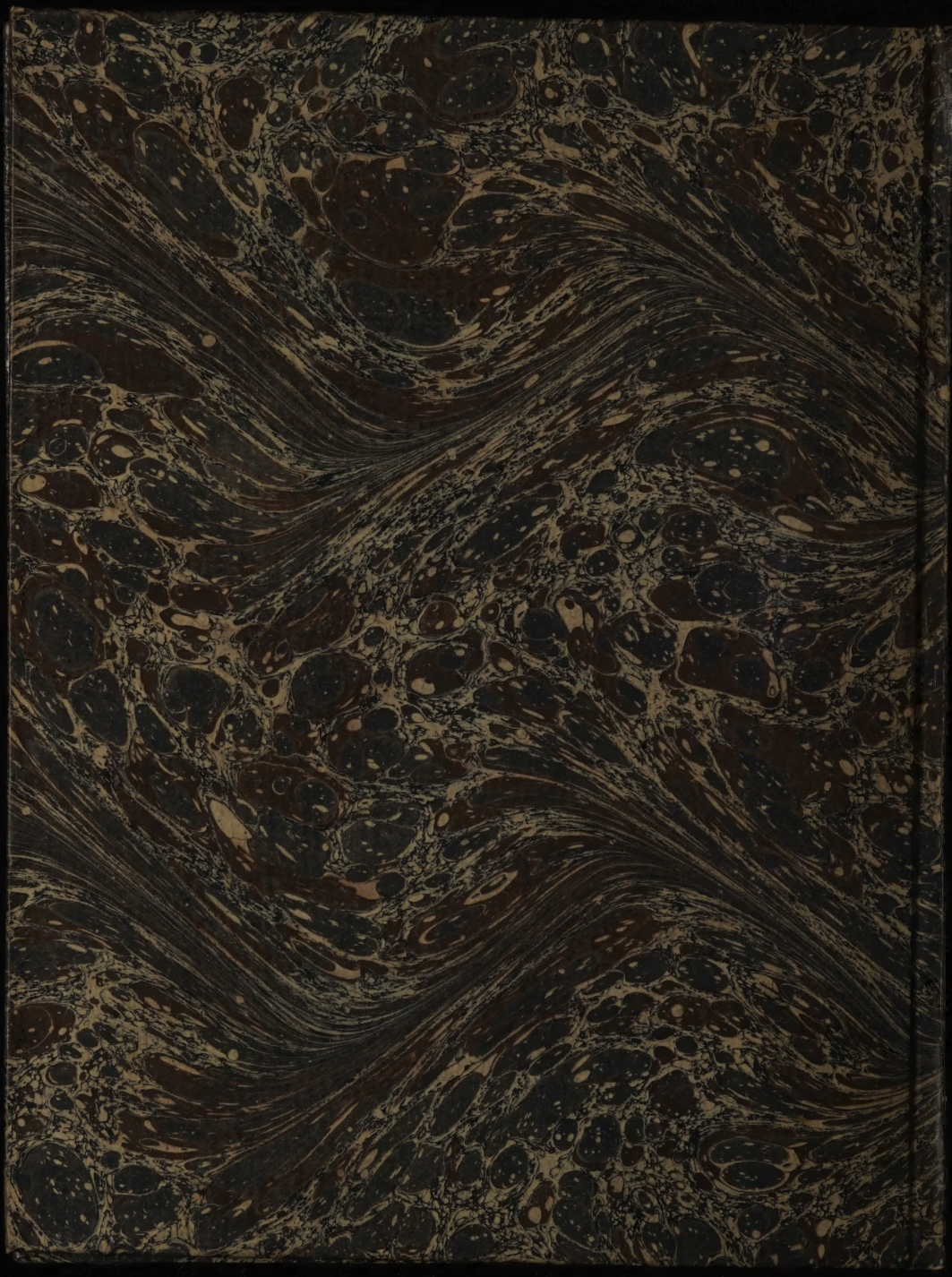
On Thursday *Decemb.* 9. he went from *London* very cheerfull and well, and came that night to his house neere *Yilford*, not sick at all, and told his wife what he had done.

On Friday *Decemb.* 10. he told his wife, that he had now finished his course; and must go to his Father: And in the afternoon he complained that his head did ake, desiring to lie down upon his bed; where his wife took all possible care she could of him. But whatsoever he received for sustenance, he could not retain it: yet he rested well, all that night.

On Saturday *Decemb.* 11. in the morning, he was taken speechlesse. And in the afternoon, about foure or five a clock he died (as is testified by severall witnesses) when he was dead his Jaw-bone was not fallen, nor his eye strings broken, he dyed very peaceably and quietly.

And on *Wednesday* December 15 He was buried, many godly people of quality present to see his body laid in the Grave. And his soule is, no doubt, at rest with the Lord.

Windsor, Examinat.
Decemb. 27. 1647.

FINIS.

no 39 aug A 79